

Roshon Jackson

Foundations of college writing-Dr. Sherry

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## College Persistence

### **Problem**

Even though college is a fun opportunity for students and has a financial benefit, some students might struggle with the challenges that comes with being a college student. For some students, the adversities you might face while in college can be overpowering and overwhelming. These adversities may contribute to a student's overall decision to leave college without fully completing the four year program. Although college can be a stressful environment, I believe with helpful resources and guidance you can gain persistence and be more dedicated to complete college and gain that degree you've always been dreaming to get. In my paper, I back up my thesis with evidence from Ruberman's (2014) *Challenges In the Transition to College*, Lassibille and Gomez's (2008) *Why Do Higher Education Students Drop Out?* And Vaidotas, Pennington, and Festuso's *How Student's Perception of Support Systems affect their intentions To Drop Out*. I also analyze my own research to draw a conclusion about the hardships of college and how dropping out of college can be avoided.

### **Background**

Research from college drop outs has shown patterns of low college persistence. Some of these factors can relate back to financial issues, family issues or the sense of loneliness. These issues can create a conclusion that students who persevere are students who have more resources available to them<sup>1</sup>. Ruberman emphasizes on this theory when he writes, "students manage to get

from one term to another by relying on either their own inner strength or that of adults, friends parents or teachers who offer them help” (Ruberman 2014, p. 104).<sup>2 1</sup>

This quote suggest that students sometimes need a helping hand to help them get through the struggles of college and could also be what separates a college dropout from a college graduate.<sup>3</sup>

While some might view adversities as a bad thing, others might look at them as a learning experience. Ruberman also explains this theory when he writes, “as clinicians, we believe that developmental crisis holds within it an opportunity to mature in ways that the child or adult has been unable to accomplish” (Ruberman, 2014 p 104). This can be an inspiring quote because if struggling college students view their life this way, they would be more motivated to attack college rather than run from it. So the procedure of persistence might actually come from outside sources. Lassibillie and Gomez also agree with this theory of college persistence when they write, “students who leave before graduation have fewer abilities and less motivation and delayed entry into higher education as well as family background and age at enrollment are important factors in explaining student’s decision to withdraw from school” (Lessibillie and Gomez 2008 p. 90). Lukosius, Olorunniwo, and Pennington also supports this theory when they write, “ the impact of academic support is enhanced when students are able to interact with faculty and staff (210). This means that when students seek out help they are more likely to succeed.

## Method

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<sup>1</sup>Interpret  
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Interpret(3)

To fully understand the difference between college dropouts and college graduates, I used data I collected from interviews and I used data I collected from research. Most of my methods came from getting insight on college students, while other information came from my findings in my research. I interviewed students about the strategies they use to keep up with their school work and the methods they use to cope with the stress. I took this approach to gather my data because I believe by getting feedback from college students, I would have a more in depth analysis on how college students stay persistent. I also gather information from research because I wanted to compare my findings to other people's data to see if my thesis was accurate.

### **Findings**

In my findings, I looked closely at the advantages and disadvantages of a college student. I really analyzed the aspect of college challenges and how students overcome them. I did this in the form of interviewing peers. During my research, I found that students who are more likely to drop out are not really accepting their college experience as a way to grow and seek out help. I also discover that they might have problems with social interactions. This led me to believe that students with social conditions typically cannot reach out for help which results to their departure from school. This became a big factor for me. Then I interviewed students on how they deal with college stress and challenges.<sup>4</sup> One freshman explained to me that he deals with stress by joining clubs and that he relies on his friends to help him get through the stressful challenges<sup>5</sup>. Another also explain the same method by stating that he calls his family members when he feels under pressure and they calm him down by reminding him he can face college. By interviewing these students, they help prove my thesis that college will also require outside a little bit of assistance in order to cope with the stress<sup>6</sup>.

### **Conclusion**

Based on my data I have collected, I have come to realize that college dropouts do not take advantage of the resources that is there for them. Even though some factors might be out of their hands like financial problems, there are many resources that can help them get over that<sup>2</sup> Burdon. I also realized that students who do persevere through college has many outside resources like family, friends and even their professors. Ruberman also agrees with this method by stating that family and friends are in important factor in a college student's career (Ruberman 2014 p 104). This suggests to me that in order to decrease the number of dropouts we need to open students eyes to the many things that is there to help them.

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Introduce(4)

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Interpret (6)

## References

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